



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

January 2004

### Unemployment rates climb as temperature drops

The increase in the unadjusted unemployment rate for **Southwest Wisconsin** in December did not surprise area observers. The unadjusted unemployment rate rose from 4.5 percent in November to 4.8 percent in December. The increase of 0.3 percentage points is fairly typical for the season. The latest bump did not push the current rate over the 5.5 percent unemployment rate of one year ago.

The regional unadjusted rate has identically tracked the statewide rate over the last two months as the statewide unemployment rate

each of the six counties in the region in December but no area county had a higher rate than one year ago. The counties in **Southwest Wisconsin** followed a pattern statewide where unemployment rates increased from November in all but five counties. Unemployment rates in the state's 72 counties were higher than one year ago in only four counties. Iowa County's reading of 3.3 percent tied Calumet County for the second lowest Wisconsin county rate this December.

Four of the six counties in the re-

ties posted most gains in jobs as compared to last December, however, the losses in Green and Richland Counties were large enough to displace those most gains. While Richland County's loss totaled just 40, the year-to-year loss of jobs in Green County totaled almost 900. Noticeable losses were recorded in Green County's trade, manufacturing, information services, and business service industries.

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville-Beloit Metropolitan Area** was 7.2 percent, 1.2 percentage points as compared to November's revised reading of six percent. This year's December rate is nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 8.1 percent recorded in December 2002. The December 2003 **Janesville-Beloit Metropolitan Area** seasonal unemployment rate ranked 196th lowest out of the nation's 331 metropolitan statistical areas.

The **Janesville-Beloit Metropolitan Area** joins the ten other metropolitan areas in Wisconsin showing increased in their seasonally adjusted employment rates. All 11 Wisconsin metropolitan areas had higher seasonally adjusted rates in December 2003 than they had experienced last month. However, all 11 metropolitan areas had lower seasonal rates than recorded in December 2002.

Seasonally adjusted, the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate in December was 5.2 percent while the national rate was 5.7 percent.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville-Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
<b>Current month: December 2003</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	79,800	3,093.7	146,878
Employment	74,100	2,934.3	138,479
Unemployment	5,700	159.3	8,398
Unemployment rate	7.2%	5.2%	5.7%
<b>Change from one month ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	800	4.6	(309)
Employment	-100	-1.1	(54)
Unemployment	900	5.5	(255)
Unemployment rate	1.2%	0.2%	-0.2%
<b>Change from one year ago</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,600	65.8	1,721
Employment	2,200	79.8	2,020
Unemployment	-700	-14.1	(300)
Unemployment rate	-0.9%	-0.5%	-0.3%

*Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.*

also rose in December to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent in November. Nationally, the unadjusted unemployment rate dropped in December to 5.4 percent from 5.6 percent in November. Both Wisconsin and the **Southwest** area are more severely impacted by changes in weather and seasonal swings in manufacturing employment than the nation as a whole. The unemployment rate rose in

region reported a loss of jobs in December. Overall, there was a loss of 100 jobs in the area in December. Most of the reductions occurred as construction employers cut back for the winter months. Job reductions in construction totaled 400 in December.

Compared with twelve months ago, however, there are 500 less jobs in the region. Four out of six coun-

## Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

December 2003	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	25,338	17,933	15,899	7,316	8,374	78,229	153,089	74,860	3,068,558
Employed	24,220	17,172	15,382	6,939	8,034	73,960	145,707	71,747	2,922,590
Unemployed	1,118	761	517	377	340	4,269	7,382	3,113	145,968
Unemployment rate(%)	4.4	4.2	3.3	5.2	4.1	5.5	4.8	4.2	4.8
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***</b>	19,500	14,600	12,800	3,660	5,900	67,800	124,300	56,500	2,785,800
Total Private	14,300	12,600	11,300	2,580	4,800	58,900	104,400	45,500	2,368,000
Goods Producing	3,600	3,500	1,100	640	1,700	18,300	28,900	10,600	623,900
Service Producing	16,000	11,100	11,700	3,030	4,200	49,500	95,500	46,000	2,161,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	600	700	600	160	200	2,800	5,000	2,200	115,600
Manufacturing	3,000	2,800	600	480	1,600	15,500	23,900	8,400	508,300
Trade	2,800	3,400	7,400	680	1,100	13,200	28,500	15,300	446,500
Transportation & Utilities	500	300	300	180	100	2,600	4,100	1,500	327,600
Financial Activities	1,200	400	200	180	300	2,000	4,300	2,300	159,200
Education and Health Services	2,300	2,200	1,000	320	600	8,600	15,100	6,500	371,500
Leisure & Hospitality	1,800	1,400	900	270	500	5,500	10,300	4,800	232,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,100	1,400	400	320	400	8,700	13,300	4,600	430,000
Total Government	5,270	1,970	1,550	1,080	1,180	8,900	20,000	11,100	417,800
Federal	160	90	90	70	50	300	800	500	29,100
State	2,150	40	90	30	210	500	3,000	2,500	100,300
Local	2,960	1,850	1,380	990	920	8,100	16,200	8,100	288,400
<b>Change from one month ago</b>	<b>November 2003</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force**</b>	-200	80	250	-50	-40	-200	-110	0	-4,100
Employed	-390	30	170	-100	-90	-200	-620	-400	-12,800
Unemployed	190	50	80	50	50	100	500	400	8,700
Unemployment rate(%)	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***</b>	-190	110	230	0	-20	-200	-100	100	-9,800
<b>Percent change NFWS last month</b>	-1.0%	0.8%	1.8%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.1%	0.2%	-0.4%
Total Private	-100	100	200	0	0	-200	100	300	-8,800
Goods Producing	-100	-100	0	-10	0	0	-200	-200	-9,000
Service Producing	-100	200	300	10	0	-200	100	300	-800
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-80	-40	-30	0	-10	-200	-400	-200	-8,500
Manufacturing	0	-20	0	-10	20	200	200	0	-500
Trade	10	210	230	10	10	0	500	500	3,000
Transportation & Utilities	-10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0	2,100
Financial Activities	20	0	0	-10	-10	0	0	0	300
Education and Health Services	20	40	10	0	0	-100	0	100	-700
Leisure & Hospitality	-30	-30	-20	0	-10	0	-100	-100	-300
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	10	-30	0	10	0	-100	-100	0	-1,600
Total Government	-130	-30	50	-10	-10	0	-100	-100	-1,000
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800
State	-120	0	-10	0	-10	0	-100	-100	-1,800
Local	-10	-30	50	-10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Change from one year ago</b>	<b>December 2002</b>								
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	850	-570	380	130	120	1,600	2,500	900	63,800
Employed	920	-470	-130	260	190	2,000	3,400	1,400	76,700
Unemployed	-70	-100	-70	-130	-70	-400	-900	-400	-12,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-1.8	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.5
<b>Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***</b>	200	-870	10	40	-40	200	-500	-700	-900
<b>Percent change NFWS last year</b>	1.1%	-5.7%	0.0%	1.0%	-0.6%	0.3%	-0.4%	-1.2%	0.0%
Total Private	400	-900	0	70	0	400	-100	-500	7,000
Goods Producing	100	-200	-100	-20	-100	100	-100	-200	-20,000
Service Producing	100	-700	100	60	0	100	-400	-500	19,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	40	60	-10	10	0	0	100	100	-6,400
Manufacturing	60	-240	-40	-40	-50	100	-200	-300	-13,600
Trade	-20	-540	-30	30	0	500	-100	-600	8,200
Transportation & Utilities	-20	20	-20	-10	0	-200	-200	0	4,200
Financial Activities	60	20	0	0	10	100	200	100	5,800
Education and Health Services	70	10	40	50	10	0	200	200	10,600
Leisure & Hospitality	100	20	0	20	20	-100	100	200	800
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	60	-190	20	10	10	0	-100	-100	2,700
Total Government	-160	-20	40	-30	-40	-200	-400	-200	-7,900
Federal	-10	0	0	0	-10	0	0	0	-600
State	-70	0	10	0	10	0	-100	-100	-2,500
Local	-80	-20	40	-30	-50	-200	-300	-100	-4,700

\* Five counties, excluding Rock County

\*\* Includes participants residing in area.

\*\*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2002

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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